

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE SITE IDENTIFICATION ("DISCOVERY")		I. IDENTIFICATION	
		01 ST WA	02 SITE NUMBER 0002325850
II. SITE NAME AND LOCATION			
01 SITE NAME (Legal, common, or descriptive name of site) Bertrand Creek Area Properties		02 STREET, ROUTE NUMBER, OR SPECIFIC LOCATION IDENTIFIER T40N R2E Sec22 SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$	
03 CITY Lynden	04 ST WA	05 ZIP CODE 98264	06 COUNTY Whatcom
		07 CO CODE	08 CONG DIST
09 DIRECTIONS TO SITE (Starting from nearest public road; enter up to 4 lines of text)			
III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES			
01 OWNER (If known)		02 STREET (Business, residential, mailing)	
03 CITY	04 ST	05 ZIP CODE	06 TELEPHONE NUMBER
07 OPERATOR (If known and different from owner)		08 STREET (Business, residential, mailing)	
09 CITY	10 ST	11 ZIP CODE	12 TELEPHONE NUMBER
13 TYPE OF OWNERSHIP (Mark one; use "insert" mode)			
<input type="checkbox"/> A. PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> B. FEDERAL (Agency name): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> C. STATE <input type="checkbox"/> D. COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> E. MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> F. OTHER (Specify): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> G. UNKNOWN			
IV. HOW IDENTIFIED			
01 DATE IDENTIFIED 2/27/98 (Month/Day/Year)	02 IDENTIFIED BY (Mark all that apply; use "insert" mode)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> A. CITIZEN COMPLAINT <input type="checkbox"/> B. INDUSTRY <input type="checkbox"/> C. STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> D. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE <input type="checkbox"/> E. RCRA INSPECTION <input type="checkbox"/> F. SURFACE IMPOUNDMENT ASSESSMENT <input type="checkbox"/> G. OTHER EPA IDENTIFICATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H. OTHER (Specify): PA petition		
V. SITE CHARACTERIZATION			
01 TYPE OF SITE (Mark all that apply; use "insert" mode)			
<input type="checkbox"/> A. STORAGE <input type="checkbox"/> B. TREATMENT <input type="checkbox"/> C. DISPOSAL <input type="checkbox"/> D. UNAUTHORIZED DUMPING <input type="checkbox"/> E. OTHER (Specify): _____			
02 SUMMARY OF KNOWN PROBLEMS (Provide narrative description; enter up to 6 lines of text)			
03 SUMMARY OF ALLEGED OR POTENTIAL PROBLEMS (Provide narrative description; enter up to 5 lines of text)			
See attached PA petition to Chuck Clarke, EPA Regional Administrator. [Letter dated 2/26/98]			
VI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM			
01 CONTACT Monica Tonel Site Assessment Manager		02 OF (Agency/Organization) U.S. EPA Region 10	
04 PREPARED BY Monica Tonel		05 AGENCY EPA	03 TELEPHONE NUMBER (206)553-0323
		06 ORGANIZATION Environmental Cleanup Office	07 TELEPHONE NUMBER
		08 DATE (Month/Day/Year) 3/12/98	



February 26, 1998

Mr. Chuck Clarke
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Post-It* Fax Note	7671	Date	2/27	# of pages	4
To	CHUCK CLARKE	From	CARL WEIMER		
Co./Dept.	EPA	Co.	RESOURCES		
Phone #		Phone #	360 733-8307		
Fax #	206 553-1809	Fax #	360 715-8434		

We, the undersigned, request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under the Superfund Law Program CERCLA Section 105(d), conduct a preliminary assessment of the hazards to public health and the environment from the sites described below.

SITES OF CONCERN

The Northern Whatcom County region of Washington is highly agricultural and characterized by permeable, sandy soils and shallow groundwater supplies. Groundwater in the area is particularly vulnerable to certain agricultural chemicals that readily leach through soil and persist for long periods of time in groundwater. Numerous county residents depend on the groundwater supply for drinking water, cooking and bathing.

The Lynden region of Whatcom County has known areas of ethylene dibromide (EDB) and 1,2-Dichloropropane (1,2-DCP) groundwater contamination, two chemicals extensively used in the past as soil fumigants in Whatcom County, particularly on berry fields.

The sites of concern involve allegations of illegal storage, burning, dumping and/or burial of pesticides and/or pesticide containers on several farms in the Bertrand Creek area of contamination, identified in previous studies by Washington State Department of Social and Human Services and the Department of Ecology (DOE). These allegations were initially investigated by DOE, but later dropped. Bertrand Creek, a fishery resource, drains the majority of the study area to the Nooksack River, located one mile to the south. Shallow groundwater flow in the area is generally toward the main fork of Bertrand Creek

It is unknown to what extent, if any, illegal storage/disposal practices at these farms, as opposed to legal agricultural application, may have contributed to the groundwater contamination problem in the area. However, previous studies have shown that the chemical specifically involved in the allegations, "Telone" (1,2-DCP) was identified in shallow wells downgradient from the farms in question, but was not found in three wells tested that are upgradient from these farms.

Numerous private wells exist in the area downgradient from these farms, which are used extensively by County residents for drinking water, cooking and bathing. Many of these wells have not been tested, and it is possible that residents are unaware of the potential health risks associated with the use of this water. There has been no comprehensive testing by any agency to determine the actual extent of the groundwater contamination.

Recent data from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) reveals that the incidence rate of childhood leukemia is statistically significantly higher in Northern

Whatcom County: a rate of 42 per 100,000 children in Northern Whatcom County affected, as compared to a national rate of 6.7 per 100,000 children. State and County health agencies are undertaking a study to attempt to determine possible causes of the elevated childhood leukemia rate.

SUBSTANCE CHARACTERIZATION

1,2-Dichloropropane ("Telone")
1,3-Dichloropropene ("Telone II")
Ethylene Dibromide

HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM / REASON FOR ASSESSMENT

In 1991, a citizen contacted DOE personnel with information and photographs from 1987 showing miscellaneous pesticide containers floating throughout Bertrand Creek. The citizen also reported and documented in photographs that, in 1989, burn barrel residues were brought on a truck and were placed into a nearby dry well. Additionally, the citizen indicated that he/she was aware that various drums were buried in a sand pit near the area, and that numerous drums were also stored on the surface near the pit.

In late 1991 and early 1992, DOE personnel investigated the allegations. At least 100 55-gallon drums labeled "Telone" and/or "Telone II" were found. Although DOE personnel concluded that the drums were currently empty, many of them were bulging, indicating that they had possibly been stored well past their shelf life, and therefore were no longer useable. The DOE investigator's report, in referring to the bulging drums, states "That they are stored in the vicinity of the sand pit where burial activity has reportedly occurred in the past is a concern." DOE investigative reports also stated "Vegetation in a ravine below this sand pit was dead."

Further investigation by DOE of private wells contaminated with 1,2-DCP in the vicinity revealed that the wells are downgradient from the farms involved in the allegations. Additionally, no 1,2-DCP was detected in 3 wells tested that are upgradient from the farms involved in the allegations.

Following the initial investigation, DOE believed that further investigation was warranted and planned "site hazard assessments (SHAs)" for each of the farms. A report from the DOE investigator states that "This site appears to be a very high priority for SHA activity..." DOE planned to conduct excavations at the location of the former dry well, at the sand pit, and possibly other locations. DOE also planned to take sediment samples from the segment of Bertrand Creek that flows through one of the farms involved. The farm owners were notified in April 1992 of DOE's plans along with a request for access to the property.

The farms involved refused to allow access to their properties. DOE then began a search warrant process with the Attorney General's (AG) office. After substantial delay, personnel from the AG's office were able to arrange a site visit with representatives from DOE, Whatcom County Health Department, the farmers, and the farmers' attorney. No samples

were taken and no excavation of the alleged drum storage/burial/dumping site was performed (verbal conversation with former DOE personnel).

There was no resolution to the allegations of barrels being buried and/or barrels stored above-ground contributing to groundwater contamination. In late 1992 and early 1993, DOE correspondence reveals that the status of the farm with the dry well was to be changed to "no further action" and that there was no evidence of actual or potential release of contaminants due to barrels floating in the portion of Bertrand Creek that runs through another of the farms involved. In 1992, DOE combined the farms involved in the allegations under the generic "Bertrand Creek" name.

"Bertrand Creek" and the (b) (6) property continue to be listed as "active" in DOE's "Suspected and Confirmed Contaminated Sites Report" under "Sites Awaiting Site Hazard Assessment" for confirmed groundwater contamination and suspected soil contamination.

Due to the fact that no further action has been taken by the State in this matter, we are hereby petitioning the U.S. EPA to undertake a preliminary hazard assessment of the sites where improper storage/dumping/burial of pesticides and/or pesticide containers allegedly took place.

Sincerely,

(b)(6) (parent of a child with leukemia)

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Carl Weimer, Exec. Director, RE Sources

Norma Grier, Executive Director, Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides

Erika Schreder, Pesticide Reform Director, Washington Toxics Coalition

Doris Cellarius, Toxics Coordinator, Cascade Chapter, Sierra Club

Jane Haley, Oregon Center for Environmental Health

Randy Tucker, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group

Patricia Anne Martin, Quincy, Washington

Parker Blackman, Exec. Director, Washington Public Interest Research Group

Dolores Broten, Exec. Director, Reach for Unbleached Foundation, BC, Canada

Miranda Holmes, Reach for Unbleached, Vancouver, Canada

David Cadman, President, Society Promoting Environmental Conservation, BC, Canada

*** Supporting documentation for this petition can be obtained through:

(b)(6)